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Agenda item 98

ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Report of the Second Committee (Part I)*

Rapporteur: Mr. Rae Kwon CHUNG (Republic of Korea)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. At its 4th plenary meeting, on 19 September 1997, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its fifty-second session the item entitled:

"Environment and sustainable development:

"(a) Implementation of the decisions and recommendations of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development;

"(b) Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa;

"(c) Protection of global climate for present and future generations of mankind;

"(d) International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction;

"(e) Convention on Biological Diversity;

"(f) Implementation of the outcome of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States;

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* The report of the Committee on this agenda item will be issued in several parts, under the symbol A/52/629 and addenda.

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"(g) Special session for the purpose of an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of Agenda 21"

and to allocate it to the Second Committee.

2. The Second Committee held a general discussion on the item at its 29th to 33rd, 40th and 41st meetings, on 5, 6, 7 and 13 November 1997. An account of the Committee's general discussion of the item is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.2/52/SR.29-33, 40 and 41). Attention is also drawn to the general debate held by the Committee at its 3rd to 9th meetings, from 13 to 16 October (see A/C.2/52/SR.3-9). An account of the Committee's further consideration of the item will be given in addenda to the present report as follows:

Sub-item	Addendum
(a)	1
(b)	2
(c)	3
(d)	4
(e)	5
(f)	6
(g)	7

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

Item 98. Environment and sustainable development

(a) Report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on the work of its nineteenth session (A/52/25);[1]

(b) Letter dated 14 March 1997 from the representatives of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/52/112);

(c) Letter dated 26 June 1997 from the Permanent Representative of Greece to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/52/217-S/1997/507);

(d) Letter dated 12 August 1997 from the Permanent Representative of Jamaica to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/52/284);

(e) Letter dated 29 August 1997 from the Permanent Representative of Kazakhstan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/52/318);

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[1] To be issued in final form as Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-second Session, Supplement No. 25 (A/52/25).

(f) Letter dated 28 August 1997 from the Permanent Representative of Paraguay to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/52/347);

(g) Letter dated 1 October 1997 from the Permanent Representative of Colombia to the United Nations transmitting the communiqué of the Meeting of Ministers for Foreign Affairs and Heads of Delegation of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries (A/52/447-S/1997/775);

(h) Letter dated 13 October from the Permanent Representative of the United Republic of Tanzania to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General transmitting the Declaration adopted by the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Group of 77 at their twenty-first annual meeting (A/52/460);

(i) Letter dated 22 October 1997 from the Permanent Representatives of Costa Rica and the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General transmitting a joint statement of the Ministers of the Russian Federation and Costa Rica (A/52/514-S/1997/815);

(j) Letter dated 11 November 1997 from the Permanent Representatives of China and the United States of America to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General transmitting the text of a joint statement of China and the United States of America (A/52/589-S/1997/871);

Item 98 (a). Implementation of the decisions and recommendations of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development

(a) Relevant sections of the report of the Economic and Social Council (A/52/3);[2]

(b) Letter dated 23 September 1997 from the Permanent Representative of the Marshall Islands to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General transmitting the communiqué of the twenty-eighth South Pacific Forum (A/52/413);

(c) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for the Elaboration of an International Convention to Combat Desertification on the first part of its tenth session (A/52/82);

(d) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee on its resumed tenth session (A/52/82/Add.1);

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[2] To be issued in final form as Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-second Session, Supplement No. 3 (A/52/3/Rev.1).

Item 98 (b). Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on the Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa (A/52/549);

Item 98 (c). Protection of global climate for present and future generations of mankind

(a) Note by the Secretary-General on the administrative and conference-servicing support by the United Nations to the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (A/52/667);

(b) Letter dated 23 September 1997 from the Permanent Representative of the Marshall Islands to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General transmitting the communiqué of the twenty-eighth South Pacific Forum (A/52/413);

Item 98 (d). International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction (A/52/560);

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on improved effectiveness of early-warning systems with regard to natural and similar disasters (A/52/561);

Item 98 (e). Convention on Biological Diversity

(a) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity at its third meeting (A/52/441);

(b) Letter dated 23 September 1997 from the Permanent Representative of the Marshall Islands to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General transmitting the communiqué of the twenty-eighth South Pacific Forum (A/52/413);

Item 98 (f). Implementation of the outcome of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on implementation of the outcome of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (A/52/319);

(b) Letter dated 23 September 1997 from the Permanent Representative of the Marshall Islands to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General transmitting the communiqué of the twenty-eighth South Pacific Forum (A/52/413);

Item 98 (g). Special session for the purpose of an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of Agenda 21

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on the outcome of the nineteenth special session of the General Assembly (A/52/280);

(b) Letter dated 19 March 1997 from the Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General transmitting documents issued at the Microcredit Summit, held in Washington, D.C., from 2 to 4 February 1997 (A/52/113-E/1997/18);

(c) Letter dated 23 September 1997 from the Permanent Representative of the Marshall Islands to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General transmitting the communiqué of the twenty-eighth South Pacific Forum (A/52/413).

4. At the 29th meeting, on 5 November, introductory statements on sub-items (a) and (g) were made by the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme and the Director of the Division for Sustainable Development of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs (see A/C.2/52/SR.29).

5. Also at the 29th meeting, an introductory statement on sub-item (c) was made by the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (see A/C.2/52/SR.29).

6. At the 31st meeting, on 6 November, introductory statements were made on sub-items (c), (e) and (f) by the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity and by the Director of the Division for Sustainable Development of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs (see A/C.2/52/SR.31).

7. At the 40th meeting, on 13 November, an introductory statement on sub-item (b) was made by the representative of Italy, on behalf of the President of the First Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (see A/C.2/52/SR.40).

8. At the same meeting, introductory statements were made by the Executive Secretary of the Convention to Combat Desertification and the Director of the secretariat of the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction (see A/C.2/52/SR.40).